GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2229
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2006
POLLUTION DUE TO EXPLORATION
Sarma Dr. Arun Kumar

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a)the investment made for control of air, water and soil pollution in the oil exploration, drilling and processing areas during last three years;

(b)the total land area damaged due to oil contamination during the said period;

(c)whether oil companies have taken adequate steps for regeneration of soil so polluted;

(d)if so, details mechanism and rate of successes;

(e)whether the Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat has developed a technique for reclamation of Crude Oil contaminated Soil by Biological means with Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) funding;

(f)if so, the results obtained from application of such technique by the Oil Companies, if any:

(g)whether the Government will ensure extensive use of this technique for reclamation of the contaminated soil for productive purposes is being taken-up; and

(h)if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a)The investment made for control of air, water and soil pollution in the oil exploration, drilling and processing areas by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and Private / Joint Ventures (JVs) companies is Rs.977.72 crores, Rs.77.00 crores and Rs.28.07 crores respectively during the last three years.

(b) to (d) No damage of land area during the last three years has been reported. However, minor spillages are unavoidable due to rupture of joints in various oil processing units under abnormal conditions and occasional rupture of pipelines due to corrosion / pilferage etc. In such oil spills, immediate remedial measures are taken and spilled oil is collected and stored at a designated waste collection site. Such onland spills generally do not spread beyond 15-25 meters.

ONGC has undertaken innovative and environmentally sound technique of bio- remediation of contaminated land / oily sludge by using specially designed consortium of bacteria developed by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi. So far, ONGC has treated more than 5000 tons of contaminated soil / oily sludge successfully by using this technique at ONGC sites in Assam and Gujarat and has plans to extend it in a massive way.

(e) & (f)Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat is working on this project, which is at Research and Development (R&D) stage at present

(g) & (h)Use of technique for reclamation of soil can be adopted once it is firmed up for commercial and industrial use. Oil Companies are committed to induct all such technology to on in any form.